

What is claimed is:

1. A process for preparing a slurry, comprising:
processing a powder;
prior to allowing said powder to fully settle, increasing the bulk density of said powder by deaerating said powder; and
dispersing said densified powder into a liquid medium.
2. The process of claim 1 wherein said powder is deaerated by:
placing said powder in a container; and
increasing the gas pressure in the area of said container containing said powder to a level above atmospheric pressure at a rate sufficient to cause said powder to compact before a substantial portion of said pressurization gas diffuses into said powder; and
removing said compacted powder from said container.
3. The process of claim 2 wherein said powder is titanium dioxide pigment, and said liquid medium is water.
4. A process for preparing a concentrated titanium dioxide pigment slurry, comprising:
milling a titanium dioxide pigment;
prior to allowing said titanium dioxide pigment to fully settle, increasing the bulk density of said pigment by:
placing said powder in a container; and

increasing the gas pressure in the area of said container containing said powder to a level above atmospheric pressure at a rate sufficient to cause said powder to compact before a substantial portion of said pressurization gas diffuses into said powder; and
removing said compacted powder from said container; and
dispersing said deaerated pigment in a liquid medium.

5. The process of claim 4 wherein said milling step is carried out in a fluid energy mill.